

Appl. No. 09/718,943
Filed November 22, 2000

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E3
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comprising the steps of providing a flowable acidic component, providing a particle comprising an alkaline detergent ingredient selected from the group consisting of alkali metal silicates, alkali metal aluminosilicates, alkali metal perborates, alkali metal percarbonates, and mixtures thereof, and applying the flowable acidic component to the particle, to form a particulate detergent or detergent premix component consisting essentially of particles wherein the amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula $m_a / (m_a + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_a is the weight of the acidic component applied, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle in μm , and c is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units, and wherein the acidic component comprises one or more acids selected from the group consisting of mono- or dicarboxylic acids containing 10 to 22 carbon atoms, sulfuric acid monoalk(en)yl esters containing 10 to 20 carbon atoms, alk(en)yl or alkylaryl sulfonic acids containing 10 to 20 carbon atoms, and polymeric polycarboxylic acids obtainable by polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated mono- and/or dicarboxylic acids.

Please cancel claim ~~16~~.

E4

18. (twice amended) A method of preparing a detergent composition comprising the steps of providing a flowable acidic component, providing a particle comprising an alkaline detergent ingredient selected from the group consisting of alkali metal silicates, alkali metal aluminosilicates, alkali metal perborates, and mixtures thereof, applying the flowable acidic component to the

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particle, to form a particulate detergent or detergent premix component consisting essentially of particles wherein the amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula $m_c/(m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_c is the weight of the acidic component applied, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle in μm , and c is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units, and mixing the particulate detergent or detergent premix component with at least one other particulate component to form the detergent composition.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Abstract

E5

A process for the production of particulate detergents or premixes suitable for their production by application of a flowable acidic component to a particle consisting at least partly of an alkaline detergent ingredient selected from the group consisting of alkali metal silicates, alkali metal aluminosilicates, alkali metal perborates, alkali metal percarbonates, and mixtures thereof, the percentage of acidic component applied being governed by the formula $m_c/(m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_c is the weight of the acidic component, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle and c is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units.

REMARKS

Claims 10-12, 14-15, 18, and 19 are pending, claim 16 having been canceled above.